

The Bloomfield Record.

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Devoted to Home News, Local Improvement and the Public Welfare.

Subscription Two Dollars Per Annum. Office, 39 Broad Street.

VOL. XVII. NO. 7.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., FRIDAY APRIL 2, 1897.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mayor, Council, Clerk & Collector

OF THE

BOROUGH OF GLEN RIDGE,

NEW JERSEY.

APRIL 1897.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT.

TO THE TAX-PAYERS OF THE BOROUGH OF GLEN RIDGE:

The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge herewith present to you the financial statement of the Borough for the second year, together with the reports of the various committees with their recommendations for the appropriations for the coming year, including also the Collector's account.

During the past year the work carried on through the various committees has been satisfactory to the Council, and we trust that it has been so to the citizens of Glen Ridge. We were disappointed in the failure of the plan to provide stone roads, but with the necessary consents now in hand an election will soon be called, when we trust will be followed by the institution of the system of road improvement for which we have so long waited.

The reports following deal so thoroughly with the questions referred to the several committees that it is unnecessary to go into detail here. In the recommendations for appropriations it will be found that several have been decreased in amount. In the matter of light and water there has been an increase, which is accounted for by the introduction of additional lamps and water hydrants. The increase in the police appropriation is made necessary by a slight increase in the salaries of the members of the force, which is deemed to the advantage of the Borough to make. The item of maps and surveys covers an entirely new map which is being made, which we think will pay for itself in its enabling the assessor to be much more accurate as to lot lines and probably in the discovery of pieces of property which have escaped taxation through the imperfections of the old system.

The amount for general Borough purposes has been decreased slightly, the Council believing that the balance to the credit of the Borough account is sufficient to justify it. In the matter of the road appropriation, if the bonding plan is successful it is anticipated that a part of this appropriation will be used in paying the interest upon the bonds issued. The total amount recommended by the Council to be appropriated for all purposes is the same as in previous years—fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00).

We trust that the Borough is about to enter upon a period of development and improvement and that with the gradual closing up of the questions outstanding between Bloomfield and Glen Ridge, both places may be able to devote themselves to the development of their respective interests free from the embarrassments of useless legal and legislative conflicts.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT S. RUDD, Mayor.

MARCH 31, 1897.

LAW AND FRANCHISE COMMITTEE.

No litigation has during the past year been instituted by the Borough, and in one case only in all the litigation forced on us has the decision been adverse and the costs charged to us.

This brief statement to our citizens of the condition of the legal warfare waged against us so bitterly and so relentlessly carries the highest praise for the counsel who have guarded our interests in the Courts and Legislature, and should point out to our opponents the hopelessness of their efforts.

That the work of our counsel is appreciated is best evidenced by the high personal esteem in which they are held by the citizens of the Borough, and the respect with which they are mentioned even by those who have not always sympathized with our efforts for independence. Bloomfield upon the other hand saw fit in the midst of its litigation to change its counsel, substituting Messrs. Colie & Swayze of Newark in place of Messrs. Gallagher & Richards. It was not the first appearance of Messrs. Colie & Swayze in the Bloomfield-Glen Ridge fight, as their names were appended to a legal opinion in behalf of Bloomfield some year and a half ago. Their interest was secured at that time through the intervention of the Chairman of the Bloomfield Township Committee, the firm being the attorneys of the Insurance Company of which the gentleman is president. It is a pleasure to this Committee to state that the exchange from neighboring and home talent to that of Newark attorneys has not been crowned with success, showing that it was neither energy nor ability that was lacking when Bloomfield was represented by Messrs. Gallagher & Richards, but the cause of their failure was inherent in the position of the Township itself toward Glen Ridge.

In all the cases decided are as follows: The Third Class City case, pending on appeal at the time of our last report, was decided, as our attorneys assured us it would be, in our favor.

The suits in the sewer and water matter, decided in the Court of Chancery in our favor, were by Colie & Swayze, counsel for Bloomfield, appealed to the Court of Errors and Appeals, and the decision of the lower court was there affirmed. This final decision has been by some of the newspapers reported as a victory for Bloomfield. It is a Spanish victory, however, as Bloomfield paid the costs. Preceding the decision proper the court expressed the opinion that Bloomfield is the owner of the sewers and must pay for the same, although lying in the Borough in streets over

which Bloomfield is declared to have no control. We fear that victories of this character will not help Bloomfield to pay for the sewers—a much more practical question to the taxpayers. We have stood ready, as our citizens know, to meet every obligation in a final settlement we could legally, equitably or honorably be expected to pay, including our share of the sewers.

The water decision was of the same character as that of the sewers. Bloomfield was told by the Courts that she owned all the water plant in Glen Ridge which she ever owned, i. e., a contract with the Orange Water Company to pay thirty dollars per year rental for each hydrant placed; surely a valuable plant! one it pays lawyers to defend! As our citizens know, and as the citizens of Bloomfield should know, we signed to the Orange Water Company on the organization of the Borough our readiness to assume this contract for all the hydrants within the limits of the Borough. The offer was refused by both Bloomfield and the Water Company.

Early in the year an election was held and proceedings taken to bond our Borough for road improvements. These proceedings were carried out by John Oakes, a resident of the Borough. Colie & Swayze, (counsel for Bloomfield and attorneys for the corporation of which the Chairman of the Township Committee of Bloomfield is president) were his attorneys. In this case the decision of the court was against us, the court deciding that we should have proceeded under a later law.

Proceedings under this later law have since been commenced, as most of our citizens are aware. Wherever it has been possible to do so, property owners have been visited with the petition and consent, and they have met with ready signature, the owners of considerably over fifty per cent. of the assessed value of the property in the Borough having signed these petitions.

While not properly coming, perhaps, under the head of this Committee, it may be well to mention the effort made by Bloomfield, through their representative in the Legislature, Chas. W. Powers, to secure the passage of a bill uniting Glen Ridge and Bloomfield in what was to be known as the City of Bloomfield. Our citizens as well as our attorneys appeared to protest against the passage of this bill. We offered to consent to the passage of the bill providing it gave to our citizens the privilege of voting whether they should accept the proposition or not, as we felt that if our citizens were, the majority of them, in favor of accepting this form of government they should have the opportunity to so express themselves at the polls. This proposition was promptly rejected by Bloomfield, and without this provision they were unable to secure even the favorable report of the Committee on the bill. The sentiment of the Legislature both in the Senate and in the House was quite largely founded by our people and it seemed to be unanimous that no measure which did not give the municipalities to be united a chance to pass by ballot on the acceptance or rejection of the law could be put through the Legislature.

In the present situation of affairs we cannot accurately estimate our necessary legal expenses for the year—whatever they are the maintenance of our municipal rights and independence is cheap at any cost.

A. S. NIVEN, Committee.
H. G. CORDLEY, Committee.

ROADS AND SIDEWALKS.

Your Road and Sidewalk Committee would submit the following report for the fiscal year ending April 1, 1897. The following is the number of feet of roadway that has been worked:

Midland Avenue.....	1800 feet.
Hillside Avenue.....	2300 "
Ridgewood Avenue.....	6668 "
Herman Street.....	600 "
Highland Avenue.....	2600 "
Hamilton Road.....	1305 "
Douglas Road, (twice).....	2587 "
Appleton Place.....	832 "
Linden Avenue.....	2500 "
Washington Street.....	2000 "
Lincoln Street.....	1500 "
Clark Street.....	2000 "
Snowden Place.....	800 "
Woodland Avenue, (twice).....	1800 "
Belleville Avenue.....	2300 "
Glen Ridge Avenue.....	1266 "
Wildwood Terrace.....	1500 "
Baldwin Street.....	1450 "
Watchung Avenue.....	900 "
Sherman Avenue.....	1100 "
Osborne Street.....	1100 "
Forest Avenue.....	1000 "
Bay Avenue.....	3500 "
Hawthorne Avenue.....	800 "
Maolis Avenue.....	7656 "

Making a total of ten miles.

We have extended storm sewer with fourteen inch pipe under Baldwin Street hill.

Have laid seventy-two feet twelve inch iron pipe at Hillside Avenue and Winsor Place and macadamized over it.

Have laid double crosswalk at Ridgewood Avenue and Wildwood Terrace and one at Highland and Bloomfield Avenues.

Have used 106 tons of broken stone.

Have dug out and refilled the sewer trench and top dressed the roadway of Glen Ridge Avenue.

Have laid 200 feet of four foot cobble gutter on south end of Ridgewood Avenue.

After many calls upon the East Orange authorities we succeeded in getting the southerly end of Ridgewood Avenue put in good condition, where for years it has been almost impassable.

Have been the means of having over 3000 feet of four foot flagstone sidewalk laid.

All the streets in the Borough have been thoroughly sprinkled from April 16th to September 30th. This proved to be a source of great comfort to the entire community, and it was also found to be of great benefit to the roads.

All crossings have been kept clean during the year. At comparatively small cost the walks and crosswalks

were kept free from snow throughout the Borough—a service which gave great satisfaction to our residents.

The above has been accomplished at a cost of \$3,214.31, expended as follows:

Work on roads, crosswalks, gutters, etc., etc.	\$2,083.70
Road sprinkling.....	636.98
Removing snow.....	114.23
Broken stone.....	133.20
Iron pipe.....	72.00
Filling sewer trenches.....	52.20
Engineers' services.....	92.00
	\$3,214.31

Your Committee would recommend an appropriation of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the ensuing year.

A. S. NIVEN, Committee.
J. W. REDDALL, Com. on Roads.

FIRE COMMITTEE.

The operations of this Department have been very satisfactory during the year ending with this report.

Several fires have occurred which through the prompt and efficient work on the part of our firemen have been checked with small losses to the owners of the property. Mention should be made here of the fire in the Williams house in Hawthorne Place. This fire made good headway, reaching to the second story and roof before an alarm was given. The firemen were prompt in their responses and "put out the fire" with a forty per cent. damage to the house, but were able to do a much greater service in saving the life of one of the occupants who was carried down the ladder to the ground.

These acts show no lack of duty or ability to perform any part of the service of a fireman. Foreman Brown and Edward Heins of the Hose Company deserve especial mention in connection with this commendable work.

A most important change should be made in the system for giving fire alarms. The bell is not now well located. We recommend that a tower be constructed in rear of the Fire Department building, sufficiently high to secure a clear line of sight of twenty feet between the ridge of the building and the base of the bell at the point of adjustment and that the present bell be exchanged for one at least double its weight.

We recommend that \$1000 be appropriated for the coming year to Fire Department uses.

GEORGE S. PORTER, Committee.
R. B. DAVIS, Committee.

WATER COMMITTEE.

No payment has been made on account of water used during the past year.

Your Committee, as stated in our last report, on its organization signified to the Orange Water Company our readiness to assume responsibility for the hydrants within our territory, but not until the fall of 1896 was there shown any disposition on the part of the Water Company to negotiate with us. We were then presented with bill for the rental of hydrants for one year to July first, 1896, on the same terms as charged to Bloomfield and with the information that the Town of Bloomfield had declined to pay for the use of the hydrants within the limits of the Borough.

Inasmuch as the suit in Chancery brought by Bloomfield and which had been decided by the Courts in our favor was under appeal to the Court of Errors and Appeals, our counsel could not advise either that we pay the bill presented or that we contract with the Orange Water Company for our supply. A decision on this appeal has but recently been handed down in which the decision of the lower Courts is sustained. The bill rendered us by the Orange Water Company is for a total of \$14,430.46. We have also unpaid their bill for changing the location of street sprinkling hydrants, \$25.

An appropriation of \$1,500 was made for water purposes last year, and as the report of the Finance Committee shows only \$5 expended, there is still to the credit of the appropriation for water \$1,495 which will provide for both bills when our attorneys shall advise us to pay the same.

The requests of your Committee to the Orange Water Company for the locating of hydrants both for fire and street sprinkling service have been promptly complied with and not in any particular has this department of our public work suffered through the litigation forced so unnecessarily on us by the Township of Bloomfield.

Several hydrants have been added during the past year and as it will doubtless be necessary to make a few further additions, your Committee recommend an appropriation for water purposes of \$1,500.

H. G. CORDLEY, Committee.
J. W. REDDALL, Committee.

LIGHT COMMITTEE.

In our last annual report your Committee stated that the matter of electric lighting was receiving careful consideration.

During the year several attempts to bring the Montclair Gas and Water Company (who have in the past supplied us with light) to a realization of the fact that the electric light subject was receiving careful attention produced no results in the line of a satisfactory proposition from them for an all night service, which was desired. Arrangements were finally about concluded to place before our voters a proposition to light our streets with electricity at the same price per lamp as Bloomfield is paying. At this juncture a proposition was received from the Gas Company for all night service at \$17 per lamp, including all expenses for new lamps, glass and cleaning of lamps. This proposition was but \$1 per lamp more than the charge for the incandescent lamp, and in view of the general satisfaction expressed with the gas lamps as compared with the light service given in Bloomfield, and also because of the opposition to the locating of poles through our streets, your Committee recommended that a contract be made with the Gas Company, and such a contract for a term of three years was ratified by ordinance duly published.

Ten new lamps have been located during the past year and five more lamps are ordered to be located as soon as the gas mains can be laid through the streets. To fully

light the streets built up, or which are thoroughfares, will require the location of about fifteen more lamps, and, as new sections are built up, new lamps must be added.

The many expressions of satisfaction and approval of the all night service which have come to your Committee confirm us in the decision reached in this light matter and that the small additional appropriation required for this service will be gladly voted.

As will be found in the report of the Borough Clerk, a balance remains unexpended on the past year's appropriation of \$132.73. Your Committee would recommend an appropriation for the coming year for lighting of \$3,100.

H. G. CORDLEY, Committee.
J. W. REDDALL, Committee.

SEWER COMMITTEE.

During the past year the pipes of the entire sewer system within the limits of the Borough have been scraped and thoroughly flushed. All flush tanks connecting with pipes where any sewage is passing through have now been connected with the water mains and these flush tanks are all in good working order. Sewer pails have been replaced where needed and the system is in such shape that it is not believed that any more than a nominal expenditure for inspection will be required for the coming year.

An appropriation of \$250.00 was voted last year, of which not \$100.00 was expended, the balance being made up by license fees and fees received from householders who made connections.

Inasmuch as no settlement with Bloomfield has been arrived at, it is believed that no appropriation for sewer purposes will be required this year and no appropriation is recommended.

H. G. CORDLEY, Committee.
A. R. BREWER, Committee.

POLICE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee is of the opinion that this Department is rendering satisfactory service.

The steel cells referred to in our last report have been placed in position, available for any emergency.

The salaries of the three Policemen have been increased to the extent of three dollars (\$3) per month each, at the urgent request of the men, whose claim for such increase seems reasonable, after more than a year of active service.

The Department, in its efforts to capture the parties making periodical raids on citizens' cellars, called upon the marshals for a few nights' active service, though nothing was accomplished except to demonstrate the facility with which the force can be increased in case of emergency.

Your Committee recommend an appropriation for the ensuing year to maintain the same service:

Salary for three policemen.....	\$1908.00
Uniforms for three policemen.....	250.00
Maintenance of prisons, etc.....	148.00
Total.....	\$2306.00

R. B. DAVIS, Committee.
G. S. PORTER, Committee.

COLLECTOR'S STATEMENT.

MARCH 29, 1897.	
1895. Amount Duplicate, 1895.....	\$194.58
Interest collected to date.....	7,078.07
Discount allowed.....	7,000.00
Paid County Tax, 1895.....	5,700.00
Paid School appropriation, 1895.....	103.43
Paid Borough account Interest, \$ 691.62.....	9,982.58
Account Taxes.....	\$30,579.15
Cash on hand, Taxes 1895.....	\$30,579.15
Unpaid Taxes 1895.....	\$30,579.15

1896. Amount Duplicate, 1896.....	
Interest collected to date.....	\$ 174.27
Discounts allowed.....	7,078.07
Paid County Tax.....	6,000.00
Paid School appropriation, 1896.....	2,000.00
Paid Borough account Interest, \$ 86.93.....	5,200.00
Paid Borough account Taxes, 5,173.07.....	492.52
Cash on hand, 1896 Taxes.....	10,562.41
Unpaid Taxes, 1896.....	\$30,102.83

COUNTY TAX.

To County Tax for 1896.....	\$7,873.63
By Paid County Collector.....	\$7,873.63

FRANK S. BENSON, Collector.

CLERK'S STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.	
Cash on hand to order Borough Account.....	\$100.44
Sewer Licenses for making Sewer Connections.....	\$5.00
Received for Rent of Fire House Election Day.....	25.00
Borough Notes for Sidewalk Construction.....	1,750.00
Frank S. Benson, Collector Saloon Licenses.....	448.00
Helen Bartholme, acct. Stone Sidewalk Construction.....	44.15
Bloomfield Savings Bank.....	25.25
E. W. Wells.....	90.25
John Tenney.....	194.64
Glen Ridge Quarry Co.....	60.98
Est. Susan G. Gallagher.....	120.54
Prof. W. Packard.....	37.52
Rufus H. Williams.....	200.00
40 Sewer Permits for making Sewer Connections.....	5,000.00
Frank S. Benson, Collector, Account 1895 Tax.....	5,000.00
Rec'd Borough Notes discounted at Bank of Montclair.....	55,883.50
	\$69,118.58

DISBURSEMENTS.	
Fire Account.....	\$1,917.78
Police Purposes.....	2,158.80
Roads and Crosswalks.....	2,914.31
Telerecord Account.....	1,154.09
Cash Account.....	734.84
Stone Sidewalk Construction Account.....	1,609.28
General Borough Purposes.....	5,234.11
Sewer Account.....	311.75
Light Account.....	2,517.27
Water Account.....	5.00
Election Expenses.....	265.73
Cash to Credit of the Borough Account.....	218.51
Borough Notes paid at Bank of Montclair during year.....	50,983.50
Borough Notes paid Sidewalk Construction Account.....	750.00
	\$69,118.58

NATHAN RUSSELL, Borough Clerk.

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